

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Psalm 126

*Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (v5)*

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal compassion, have mercy on us. Turn us to seek your face, & enable us to reflect your goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Mark 10:46-52

<sup>46</sup>As [Jesus] & his disciples & a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out & say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>48</sup>Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>49</sup>Jesus stood still & said, “Call him here.” & they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” <sup>50</sup>So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up & came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” <sup>52</sup>Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight & followed him on the way.

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Review the events between 8:22 & 10:52, especially Jesus’ three passion predictions & the disciples’ misunderstandings. How do the blind characters serve as a metaphor for the reader of Mark’s gospel as compared to the characters in the story, especially the disciples?
2. What connections do you see with the story of the man born blind (*John 9*)? What about *Mark 2:1-12*?

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Did you complete & return your stewardship commitment form to your congregation? What difference does completing & returning the form make? What makes you refuse this ministry of the congregation? (By the way, at St. Peter’s the staff, council, commissions, & committees don’t know the amount you committed to give.)
4. How does making a stewardship commitment (& keeping up with it,) open your eyes to Jesus’ ministry & mercy at work in your congregation? *See 2 Corinthians 8:1--9:15*

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Jesus shows us some practical wisdom by asking what Bartimaeus wants (v51). Who among your neighbors at home, work/school/volunteering, & recreation will you ask the same thing, “What do you want from Jesus?” *See Matthew 7:7, Mark 10:36, John 5:6*
6. Now, how does what you learn from applying Jesus’ example fit with your congregation’s mission & existing ministries? How can you, as a part of your congregation’s crew- not a pirate!- work to serve these Bartimaeuses among your neighbors with Jesus’ mercy?

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Vision

*Are we going to pledge our stewardship for God's vision &  
his vision for St. Peter?*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." (v51)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack &  
save me for the heavenly kingdom. (2 Timothy 4:18)

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